TNReady Administration 2017-18
Overview and Guidance

Operational Testing Window

All operational tests will be completed in a single administration window.

The following is a snapshot of important dates:
- For high school students on a block schedule, the fall testing window is **Nov. 27–Dec. 15, 2017.**
- For students on a traditional or block schedule, the spring testing window is **April 16–May 4, 2018.**

Please visit our website here for a full schedule of administration windows for all state and national assessments administered in Tennessee.

Operational Test Scheduling

Testing schedules are established **by the district at the school and/or district level.** It is at the district's discretion to allow schools to set their own testing schedules, independent of a district testing schedule. Please see details on subparts for each subject and grade level on the updated testing times chart. Below are guidelines for the timing of assessments within the testing windows.

English language arts and U.S. history: Subpart 1

Subpart 1 of the English language arts (ELA) and U.S. history assessments, which include written responses, must be administered in the **first week** of the administration window.
- Districts may select any day or days within the week to complete subpart 1. However, all paper materials must be shipped back to the vendor no later than **Friday of the first week** of the administration window. (Online tests are automatically transmitted to the vendor electronically as they are submitted.)
  - For high school End-of-Course (EOC) administration, the first week of the fall administration window is **Nov. 27–Dec. 1, 2017**.
  - For all grades (3–8 and high school, traditional and block schedule), the first week of the spring administration window is **April 16–20, 2018**.

All TNReady Assessments

For all TNReady assessments, districts must complete test administration **by the end of the three-week testing window**, and testing days **do not have to be consecutive**.
- Districts **do not have to use the entire testing window** and may complete administration over fewer days.
- Districts may begin testing subjects other than ELA and U.S. history within the first week.
- Districts can choose to administer each subpart on different days to allow schools to maintain the regular bell schedule for most tests.
- Districts can choose to combine subparts and administer them on the same day.

- Assessments with multiple subparts (i.e., all assessments except grades 3–4 science and social studies, Biology, and Chemistry) must be completed in sequential order.
- Students in a test session do not have to be on the same subpart unless it is a read-aloud session. However, subparts may differ in the time allowed for student completion.

Field Testing

Tennessee districts and schools will participate in required field tests during the 2017-18 school year. Field tests will not be included in teacher, student, or district accountability results, and student performance will not be reported. However, field tests are crucial for informing future test design using authentic student data. For more information about field tests, please click here.

Required Field Tests	Time (min.)
ELA (Grades 3 and 4)	Up to 80
ELA Writing (Grades 5–11)	85
U.S. History Written Response	50

Optional Field Tests	Time (min.)
ELA (Grade 2)	Up to 75

These field tests will take place at a **separate time outside of the operational testing window.** One-half to one-third of students will participate, and the group will rotate each year. Districts are required to participate in these field tests when selected in the rotation.

Test Format and Ordering

The department began the three-year phase-in of online assessment last year. We will continue that plan this year with full implementation for high schools and *optional* online testing for grades 5-8. In the coming weeks, the department will provide more guidance regarding test ordering and pre-ID changes in the 2017-18 school year for both fall and spring administration.

For 2017-18, all schools with grades 9–12 will be required to complete the following EOC tests online: English language arts, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Integrated Math 1–3, Chemistry, Biology, and Geography/U.S. history. Please click here for details regarding the technology readiness certification steps recommended for all districts participating in online assessment.

- **Online only:**
    o All EOC exams administered in high schools for grades 9–12 during the fall and spring testing windows
- **Online optional:**
    o All testing for students in grades 5–8 (ELA, math, science, social studies, and EOC tests)
        ▪ Districts may opt in individual, whole schools for online testing in grades 5–8, and should contact the department at TNED.Assessment@tn.gov if there are unique grade configurations that may require additional consideration.
        ▪ **Note:** K-8 schools that offer HS EOC tests may opt-in to online testing for just those EOC content areas.

- **Paper and pencil <u>only</u>:** *Please note that there will be separate test books and response documents for each content area for paper and pencil tests.*
  - o All testing in grades 3 and 4 (i.e., ELA, math, science, and social studies)
  - o **Note:** If a K-5 school opts into online testing this year, only grade 5 would be tested online.

Updates to and information about the roll-out plan for the transition to online testing can be found here. Below is a summary of the transition schedule announced last spring.

School Year	Operational Testing	Field Testing
2017-18	- Online testing is required for high schools. - Online testing is optional for grades 5–8.	- Field testing in all subjects for grades 5–12 will be administered online only. - Field testing for grades 3 and 4 will be administered via paper and pencil only.
2018-19 and beyond	- Online testing is required for grades 5–12. - Online testing is optional for grades 3 and 4. There will continue to be a paper and pencil option for these grades.	- Field testing in all subjects for grades 5–12 will be administered online only. - Field testing for grades 3 and 4 will be administered via paper and pencil only.

Alternate Assessments & English Language Assessment

<u>Test Windows</u>
The testing windows for MSAA, TCAP–Alt, and WIDA can be viewed here.

<u>Test Format</u>
- TCAP–Alt for grades 3–11 using MSAA for ELA and math will be **online**.
- TCAP–Alt for grades 3–11 in science and social studies are **paper and pencil only**.
- Grade 2–Alt for ELA and math is **paper and pencil only**.
- Learn more about WIDA's ACCESS 2.0 for ELs test format here (English language proficiency assessment).

More information about alternate assessments can be found here.

More information about assessments for English learners can be found here.

Testing Environment

Based on educator feedback, we are providing additional clarification regarding the expectation for testing environment. An educational environment should be maintained during testing so that students and faculty are comfortable and familiar with their surroundings. It is not necessary to cover the walls. However, **if a tool was introduced as a learning strategy for students, they need to be able to recall it independently for any summative assessment of skill mastery, including the state test.**

For questions/items that include the language "prompting and support" or that do not require the student to independently recall a particular formula or term, the department has provided reference material on a separate sheet or within the question/item itself on the state assessment.

If, during local summative assessments, teachers provide additional prompting and support for students, such as displays in the classroom or reference materials, this may have implications for demonstration of mastery. Educators should consider if a student's skill level was truly assessed at the depth that the standard required, based on independent effort.

- Examples of materials which should be removed from the test environment because they are considered additional prompting and support may include, but are not limited to:
    - Sentence starters that prompt for word variation or transition phrases
    - Defining the FOIL acronym on a whiteboard as a four-step process
    - Defining the five-paragraph essay structure on a poster displayed in the room
    - Teacher-made reference materials (e.g., hand-outs, teacher tips on the white board, information attached to student desks)
    - Additional reference sheets from other state standardized testing programs copied by the teacher and handed out to students
    - Posting mathematics formulas not listed on the reference sheets

In addition to this guidance, districts may provide clarification regarding tools and practices that are specific to their local context regarding the testing environment. More information about test security will be released on EdTools and the department website in the coming weeks through the test administration manual.

Practice Tools

The department will provide the following practice tools to support educators and students this fall.

- **Paper practice tests:** PDF versions of practice tests for all grades will be available and posted on EdTools this fall. These will be updated practice tests, changed to reflect the design and structure changes detailed in the updated blueprints. Additionally, they have been revised to reflect revisions to the mathematics and English language arts standards.
- **Online practice tests:** The online versions of the practice test for EOCs will be available in Oct. 2017. Online practice tests for grades 5–8 will be posted by Jan. 2018.
- **Classroom Assessment Builder (CAB):** The CAB—an online item sampler created by Questar—will be available for a "community preview" in late September 2017. This release phase of the product will be used to gather input and feedback from educators on functionality. Questar will use that feedback to continuously improve CAB. For more information about CAB, please view the CAB Brochure.

Item Release for 2016-17

Overview

The Tennessee Student Assessment Transparency Act (see Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-6008) requires the department to release items and make available a summary of student responses by item on our standardized tests. In terms of item release, the department is authorized to release only those items that we own and that do not have any copyright restrictions. Any field test or linking items will also not be released since they will appear on future tests.

Due to the suspension of testing in 2015-16, Tennessee did not own the vast majority of operational items for grades 3–8 last year. The exception is grade 3–8 science, where there will be 60–70 percent of operational items released this fall. After the 2017-18 school year, the department will release 60–70 percent of operational items across all grades and content areas—the typical release volume annually, given the restrictions noted above. The detail of student answer response versus correct answer will only be provided in an electronic report and for multiple select items (not hand-scored items). **More information about the timing of item release for 2016-17 will be sent in the coming weeks.**

Item Release by Content/Grade

The following table outlines the extent of item release for each grade and content area this fall.

Grade	Full Release	Limited Release	No Release
High School EOC	• ELA and U.S. history writing prompts and anchor sets • U.S. history • Biology • Chemistry	• ELA • Math • TCAP–Alt**	
Grades 3–8	• ELA writing prompts and anchor sets • Science	• Math • TCAP–Alt**	• ELA* • Social studies***
Grade 2	• ELA • Math	• Grade 2 Alt**	

* Due to suspension of testing in 2015–16, the department does not have intellectual rights to items.
** These tests are not specifically covered under the Tennessee Assessment Transparency Act. A smaller population (1%) of students takes these assessments, creating fewer opportunities to replace items.
*** Field test items will not be released.